

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 14-15 and 21-27 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 14-15, 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EO 752603 issued to W. L. Gore and Associates.

Claim 1 is the only pending independent claim. Applicant's claim 1, as amended, now includes,

"... and the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material"

The cited reference does not teach this limitation.

EO 752603 discloses a light transmitting fiber core and a buffer composed of a closed cell porous polymer mater that surrounds the light transmitting fiber core. EO 752603 teaches that the buffering protects the optical fiber from severe stresses, as stated on page 2, lines 30-32. However, contrary to applicant's claim 1, EO 752603 does not disclose "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material", as recited in applicant's claim 1. This is because EP 752603 teaches that the improved buffer comprises a closed cell porous polymeric material, having a minimum porosity per unit volume of material of 10%, as stated on page 3, lines 13-14. Alternatively, EP 752603 discloses that the buffering may be comprised at least in part by a 50% porous co-extruded polypropylene film, as stated on page 3, lines 18-21. Thus, EP 752603 is missing the elements "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material", as recited in applicant's claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that EO 752603 does not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore EO 752603 does not anticipate claim 1. Since claims 2-4, 14-15 and 21-27 respectively depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable over EO 752603.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 660082 issued to Andrew A. G.

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 660082 issued to Andrew A. G. in combination with U. S. Patent 5,706,175 issued to Takei.

Claims 1-3, 15, 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO99/36829 (SUN) in combination with U. S. Patent 4,107,354 to Wilkenloh et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection.

WO99/36829 teaches a buffer layer of plastic form that surrounds a fiber optic cable core and provides mechanical thermal insulation. This reference does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 limitation of "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material".

EP 660082 discloses a sensing coil of a fiber optic gyroscope that is submerged in a gel. The fiber has a polymeric buffer coating on it, as stated in column 6, lines 28-31. This reference also does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 limitation of "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material".

Wilkenloh discloses a coaxial cable having greatly improved mechanical and electrical properties derived from a foamed dielectric having a dielectric constant in the range of 1.32 to 1.1, such cable being provided by a novel method of coating a center conductor of the cable with a dielectric with an extruded cellular polyolefin base composition which has been rendered cellular by the direct injection of a blowing agent

in a liquid form into the polymer during an extrusion process. Also disclosed are an apparatus and a method of continuous wire electropolishing and pre-coating. This reference also does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 limitation of "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material".

Takei discloses a resin-sealed semiconductor device that includes a plurality of electronic components mounted on a printed wiring board, a circuit mounting surface of the board being resin-sealed, with connection terminals of the electronic components electrically connected to a printed wiring on the board. A surface portion of the board is coated with insulator material, which contains tiny hollow spheres and constitutes a thermal expansion resin. This reference also does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 limitation of "the introduction of the plurality of voids into the polymeric material effects a decrease in a bulk modulus of the polymeric material without substantially altering a Young's modulus of the polymeric material".

The dependent claims 1-6, 14, 15 and 21-27 include all the limitations of the respective independent claim 1 upon which they depend and therefore are allowable over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth with regard to independent claim 1.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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